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RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1948

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F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.



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## RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1949.

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Chairman of the Council : Frederick C. Rawlinson, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Frank Winstanley, Esq.

Chairman of the Town Planning and Health Committee  
Robert Webster, Esq., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Town Planning and Health Committee :  
Walter Smith, Esq.

Chairman of the Housing Committee :  
Edward Wainwright, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee :  
John Molyneux, Esq.

### MEMBERS :

James Eden, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Mrs. Dorothy M. O'Connor.

Gordon Thompson, Esq.

John R. Austin, Esq.

William Ollerton, Esq.

Ben Stockley, Esq.

Geo. T. Berryman, Esq.

John N. Slater, Esq.

Sam Lewis, Esq.

Clerk to the Council : Geo. Walker, Esq.

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### Staff of the Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. Bunting, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

Reginald C. Haycock, A.R.S.I., A.M.Inst. B.E., A.M. Inst. H.E.

Clerk : Miss Brenda Kerfoot.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

RAINFORD,

*August, 1949.*

To the Chairman and Members of the Rainford Urban District Council.

Mrs. O'Connor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the 58th Annual Report on the health of Rainford, being the Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

I am glad to report the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The death rate at 9.4 per 1,000 is below that for 1947 (12.6 per 1,000).

The birthrate at 19.4 per 1,000 shows a decrease on the rate for 1947 (25.8 per 1,000).

The incidence of infectious disease was lower than during the previous year. Altogether twenty nine cases were notified as against seventy three.

5 cases of Scarlet Fever and 8 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

There were again no cases of Diphtheria, a further testimony to the continued efficiency of Diphtheria Immunisation in the District.

I am happy to report that the maternal mortality rate was nil, no case of death from puerperal causes occurring during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres .....	5,877
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1948 .....	3,898
Population—Census, 1931 .....	3,494
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books .....	1,160
Rateable Value .....	£16,873
Product of a penny rate .....	£70/3/0

### I.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area—  
Mainly a residential area with houses of mixed types. Agriculture and minor mixed industries.

### II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1948 .....	3,898
Live births—	Total. M. F.
Legitimate .....	75 32 43
Illegitimate .....	1 0 1
Total .....	76 32 44
Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population, mid-1948 .....	19.4
Stillbirths .....	Total M. F.
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	5 3 2
	6.1
Deaths .....	Total. M. F.
Death-rate per 1,000 estimate population .....	37 22 15
	9.4
Deaths from puerperal causes—	
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .....	Nil
Other maternal causes .....	Nil
Total maternal mortality .....	Nil
Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	Nil
Death-rate of infants under one year of age—	
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	Nil
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	Nil
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	3
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	Nil

### III.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no major changes in the General Health Services during the year, with the exception that an Ante-Natal Clinic became operative in the Autumn.

The Child Welfare Centre continues to be much appreciated by mothers in Rainford, and is well attended.

### IV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water.

Water is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation by agreement, and the supply is satisfactory.

All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains with the exception of five supplied by wells.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A full account of the sewerage systems in Rainford will be found in the Annual Report for 1937.

The refuse tip at Ormskirk Road is still closed.

#### Public Cleansing.

No alteration in the system of public cleansing has taken place during the year. Full details were given in the reports for previous years.

#### Ashpit Privy Conversions.

During the year 3 privy closets were converted to fresh W.Cs. This leaves approximately 404 to be converted.

#### Salvage.

The following are the amounts of the various types of Salvage disposed of during the year ended 31st December, 1948.

Waste Paper	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17 tons, 10 cwts. 0 qrs.
Scrap Metal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Rags	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Bones	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.

Total gross income from sale £70 0s. 0d.

#### Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, is enforced by the County Council. The provisions of the Act, however, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year.



## V.—SCHOOLS.

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected regularly by the School Health Department of the Lancashire County Council, who make all necessary arrangements for the treatment and following up of defects.

### **School Feeding.**

The Feeding Centre in Alfred Street has been found to be very satisfactory.

Milk is provided by the Lancashire County Council Education Committee to children in the schools in necessitous cases, under the Milk Marketing Board's scheme.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis. The samples in 1948 all proved satisfactory.

### **Cleanliness.**

Reference was made in the Report for 1941 to the incidence of verminous infestation in school children. Cleanliness inspections still constitute an important part of the work of the School Nurse and vigorous action is taken where infestation is found.

## VI.—HOUSING.

### **Post-War Housing.**

The scheme of 6 houses Rear Derby Arms, also 14 houses Rear Derby Arms, is now completed. The contemplated scheme of 22 Airey Houses is also completed.

A further scheme of 40 houses Rear Bank Villas is contemplated in the near future.

Due to increased duties, it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine inspection of houses in the District. The staff available in normal times was limited, and extra duties, such as Civil Building Licensing Work, have prohibited such inspections.

## VII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### **Milk Supply.**

Much time and attention is devoted to this important subject with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. The Government have effected far-reaching changes whereby the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are made responsible for the enforcement of conditions relating to clean milk production at the dairy farms.

On the 31st December, 1944, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

- 5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk ;
- 13 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 2 persons as purveyors of milk.

The approximate number of cows in the District is 250.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

**Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection :** There were no slaughter houses in operation in the District during the year.

## VIII.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

## IX.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1948 the total number of notifications of infectious disease received in the department was 29.

Hospital accommodation is provided at Ormskirk by arrangement with the Ormskirk Urban District Council, and is adequate.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

5 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, 1 more than last year.

### **Whooping Cough.**

8 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, 4 more than last year.

### **Measles.**

16 cases of measles were notified during the year, a decrease of 48 cases on last year.

### **Diphtheria.**

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

It is important that the drive to secure the immunisation of all children should not be relaxed.

## Treatment of Diphtheria.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is readily available for use in the event of an outbreak of diphtheria. The antitoxin is provided free of charge and is kept by the Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following is a table of notifications of infectious disease received during the year.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 & Over
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	16	2	1	3	2	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	8	1	2	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	29	3	3	4	5	3	6	4	—	1	—	—	—

## Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 1948 the number of children immunised for the first time was 127.

A very high proportion of the children living in Rainford have now been immunised. Special attention is directed towards securing the treatment of the young child, as it is amongst infants that diphtheria takes its greatest toll.

Most parents are well familiar with the Immunisation Scheme and are anxious to avail themselves of the facilities provided.

As soon as an infant in the Urban District attains 1 year, the mother is invited to bring it for treatment to the Child Welfare Centre.

With the exception of the National Health Service Act, 1948, the administration of the Council's Immunisation Scheme passed to the Local Divisional Health Committee. This, however, has not resulted in any alteration in local procedure and the response from parents has been maintained.

## Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease, together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 .....	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
35—45 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	5	—	1	—	2	—	—	—

Prior to the 8th July, 1948, the scheme for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the administrative county was in the hands of the Lancashire County Council. Following the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1948, treatment became the responsibility of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The Dispensary for Tuberculosis patients in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens.

Full co-operation exists with the Tuberculosis Officer covering the Rainford Area.

Notifications of tuberculosis was found to be complete and satisfactory during 1948.







